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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/366,858	08/04/1999	WILLIAM DRENTTEL	HD-100US	3583

7590

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EXAMINER

HUYNH, THU V

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2178

DATE MAILED: 12/03/2003

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/366,858

Applicant(s)

DRENTTEL ET AL.

Examiner

Thu V Huynh

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 06 August 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3-6 and 8-16 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) 1, 3-6, and 8-16 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. This action is responsive to communications: appeal brief filed on 08/06/2003 to application filed on 09/04/1999.
2. Claims 1, 3-6, and 8-16 are pending in the case. Claims 1, 6, 11, and 15 are independent claims.
3. The Finality of the Office Action mailed on 01/24/2003 has been withdrawn in view of new ground(s) of the rejections.
4. The rejections of claims 15 and 16 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Courter et al., "Mastering Microsoft Office 2000 Professional Edition", ISBN:0782123139, Pub. Date: February 1999, pages 105-145; 937-981; and 1031-1056, have been withdrawn in view of new ground(s) of rejections.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101

5. 35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

Claims 1, 3-6, 8-13, and 15-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter.

Regarding independent claims 1, 6, 11, and 15, the claims limitations first are not written in the technological arts. As such they could be carried out in a piece of paper with a grid on it.

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Secondly, if the claims limitations recited on or in a computer, they are still non-functional descriptive material. In order to be considered a data structure, the claims must recite a functional interrelationship between data elements.

Finally, if the claims limitations were functional, they are still not tangibly embodied on a computer, computer readable medium or other statutory device.

Dependent claims 3-5, 8-10, 11-13, and 16 are also not written in the technological arts, and/or non-functional descriptive material, and/or not tangibly embodied on a computer, and are rejected under the same rationale above.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

(b) This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

7. **Claims 1, 3-6 and 8-14 remain rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Microsoft FrontPage 98 (herein after FrontPage), copyright 1997 by Sams.net Publishing, pages 359-381 in view of England, US 6,144,991 filed 02/1998.**

Regarding independent claim 1, Front Page teaches a template for the display of information, said template having a display area with a dimensional configuration of a height of approximately a first whole number of dimensional units and a width of approximately a second whole number of dimensional units (FrontPage, page 367 line 14 – page 368 line 24; page 363, line 10 – page 364, line 5; and fig. 18.4, many templates such as “Banner and Contents, Footer, Header, Footer and Contents, Vertical Split” template,), said template comprising a plurality of grids combined and arranged together to fill the entire display area of said template (FrontPage, page 363, fig.18.4 and page 378, fig.18.6, each template has different number of frames and layout).

Although the use a plurality of grids combined and arranged together to fill the entire display area of said template, wherein said grids being dimensioned to have *approximately a two dimensional unit by one dimensional unit* configuration are not explicitly disclosed, FrontPage implementation obviously use such grids and grids’ dimensional information to allow the user to create new frameset and frames, as well as to add (split) and delete frames (FrontPage, page 363 lines 10-22 and page 365 lines 3-22).

England teaches the step of providing different frame layouts and grid dimensions (England, fig.4).

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have combined England and FrontPage to provide “each of said grids being dimensioned to have approximately a two dimensional unit by one dimensional unit configuration”, since this would have provided the user with different template layout configuration.

Regarding dependent claim 3, which is dependent on claim 1, FrontPage and England teach the limitations of claim 1 as explained above. FrontPage teaches wherein at least one of said grids is further subdivided into two sub-grids (FrontPage, page 365 lines 3-13). However, FrontPage does not explicitly disclose each subdivided having an approximately one dimensional unit by one dimensional unit configuration.

England teaches the step of providing different frame layouts and grid dimensions (England, fig.4).

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have combined England and FrontPage to provide “each subdivided having an approximately one dimension unit by one dimension unit configuration”, two-by-one dimensional unit configuration, or any different desired dimensional unit configuration, since this would have provided the user with different layout configuration.

Regarding dependent claim 4, which is dependent on claim 1, FrontPage and England teach the limitations of claim 1 as explained above. FrontPage teaches wherein said template is provided in a Web authoring program for generating pages for display with a browser program, said grids comprising frames in which information may be entered, through said authoring program and displayed via said browser program (FrontPage, page 359; page 360, lines 1-13; and page 371, lines 1-20, generating web pages for display with a browser program and separately adding/editing the content of a frame page in a full browser window).

Regarding dependent claim 5, which is dependent on claim 1, FrontPage and England teach the limitations of claim 1 as explained above. Refer to the rationale relied to reject claim 4, “wherein said template is provided within a software program, said grids comprising frames in which information may be entered to said software program” is addressed. The rationale is incorporated herein.

Claim 6 is for a computer system performing the method combination of claims 1 and 3, and is rejected under the same rationale.

Claims 8-10 are for a computer system performing the method of claims 3-5, respectively and are rejected under the same rationale.

Regarding independent claim 11, FrontPage teaches a method arranging information, including text and graphic images, in a template having a display area with a dimensional configuration of a height of approximately a first whole number of dimensional units and a width of approximately a second whole number of dimensional units (FrontPage, page 367 line 14 to page 368 line 24; and page 375, lines 1-20). FrontPage teaches providing at least one template (FrontPage, page 363, line 10 – page 364, line 5; and fig. 18.4, many templates such as “Banner and Contents, Footer, Header, Footer and Contents, Vertical Split” template, each has different number of frames and layout) subdivided into a plurality of grids combined and arranged together to fill the entire display area of said template (FrontPage, page 363, fig.18.4 and page

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378, fig.18.6). However, FrontPage does not explicitly disclose each subdivided having an approximately two-by-one dimensional configuration.

England teaches the step of providing different frame layouts and grid dimensions (England, fig.4).

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have combined England and FrontPage to provide “each of said grids has approximate two-by-one dimensional configuration”, one-by-one dimensional unit configuration, or any different desired dimensional unit configuration, since this would have provided the user with different template layout configuration.

Regarding dependent claim 12, which is dependent on claim 11, FrontPage and England teach the limitations of claim 11 as explained above. Refer to the rationale relied to reject claim 11, “providing a plurality of templates, each said template having a different arrangement of grids” is addressed.

Regarding dependent claim 13, which is dependent on claim 11, FrontPage and England teach the limitations of claim 11 as explained above. FrontPage teaches separately entering information into each of said grids such that said template displays different information in said grids (FrontPage, 371-375, separately adding different content to left, top and main frame).

Regarding dependent claim 14, which is dependent on claim 11, FrontPage and England teach the limitations of claim 11 as explained above. FrontPage teaches the template is provided for in a Web authoring program for generating pages for display with a browser program in which information may be entered, through said authoring program and displayed via said browser program (FrontPage, page 359; page 360, lines 1-13; and page 371, lines 1-20, generating web pages for display with a browser program and adding/editing the content of a frame page in a full browser window).

8. **Claims 15 and 16 remain rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over “Microsoft FrontPage 98” (herein after FrontPage), copyright 1997 by Sams.net Publishing, pages 359-381 in view of England, US 6,144,991 filed 02/1998 and Courter et al., “Mastering Microsoft Office 2000 Professional Edition”, ISBN:0782123139, Pub. Date: February 1999, pages 105-145; 937-981; and 1031-1056.**

Regarding independent claim 15, FrontPage teaches a method for displaying text and other information on a display, said text information having at least two formats, at least one of said formats having a horizontal directional orientation and at least one of said formats having a vertical directional orientation (FrontPage, page 367 line 14 to page 368 line 24; page 374, fig. 18.12, text in horizontal direction in top frame and vertical direction on left frame), said method comprising:

- creating a first screen by dividing the area of the display into first plurality of grids which are combined and arranged together to fill the entire area of the display (FrontPage, page 363, lines 10-16; and 365 lines 3-13, creating frameset and splitting

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- a frame into two rows or columns), at least one of said first plurality of grids displaying said text information formatted in said horizontal directional orientation, said at least one grid having a horizontal orientation corresponding to the orientation of said textual information format (FrontPage, page 373, text information formatted in horizontal direction in top frame); and
- creating second screen by dividing the area of the display into a second plurality of grids which are combined and arranged together to fill the entire area of the display (FrontPage, page 363, lines 10-16; and 365 lines 3-13, creating frameset and splitting a frame into two rows or columns), each said grid having a horizontal or vertical orientation, at least one of said second plurality of grids displaying said text information formatted in said vertical directional orientation, said at least one grid having a vertical orientation corresponding to the orientation of said textual information format (FrontPage, page 373, text information formatted in vertical direction in left frame).

FrontPage teaches that the user enables to configure the size of plurality of frames (FrontPage, page 367, lines 4-17). However, FrontPage does not explicitly disclose each of said first and second plurality grids being dimensioned to have approximately a two dimensional unit by one dimensional unit configuration; selecting a first format for text information from at least two format; and displaying said screen having said textual information corresponding to said selected format.

England teaches the step of providing different frame layouts and grid dimensions (England, fig.4).

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It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have combined England and FrontPage to provide “grids being dimensioned to have approximately a two dimensional unit by one dimensional unit configuration”, since this would have provided the user with different layout configuration to create desired frames.

However, England does not explicitly disclose selecting a first format for text information from at least two formats; and displaying said screen having said textual information corresponding to said selected format.

Courter teaches the steps of:

- selecting a first format for text information from at least two format (Courter, page 124, lines 15-36 and page 125, fig. 6.12); and
- displaying a screen having said textual information corresponding to said selected format (Courter, page 124, lines 15-36 and page 125, fig. 6.12).

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have combined Courter and FrontPage to provide tools for the user to format contents in frames, since this would have facilitated the user to layout an electronic document.

Regarding dependent claim 16, which is dependent on claim 15, FrontPage, England, and Courter teach the limitations of claim 15 as explained above. Refer to the rationale relied to reject claim 15, FrontPage teaches at least one of said grids is further subdivided into two grids (FrontPage, page 365 lines 3-13, subdividing a frame into plurality of frames).

However FrontPage does not explicitly disclose each grid having an approximately one dimensional unit by one dimensional unit configuration.

England teaches the step of providing different frame layouts and grid dimensions (England, fig.4).

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have combined England and FrontPage to provide “each subdivided having an approximately one dimension unit by one dimension unit configuration”, two-by-one dimensional unit configuration, or any different desired dimensional unit configuration, since this would have provided the user with different layout configuration to create a desired frameset.

9. Claims 15 and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Courter et al., “Mastering Microsoft Office 2000 Professional Edition”, ISBN:0782123139, Pub. Date: February 1999, pages 105-145; 937-981; and 1031-1056.

Regarding independent claim 15, Courter teaches a method for displaying text and other information on a display, said text information having at least two formats, at least one of said formats having a horizontal directional orientation and at least one of said formats having a vertical directional orientation (Courter, page 124, line 1 – page 125, line 3), said method comprising:

- creating a first screen by dividing the area of the display into first plurality of grids which are combined and arranged together to fill the entire area of the display (Courter, page 121, line 8– page 122, line 11), each of said first plurality grids being

- dimensioned to have any dimensional unit configuration (Courter, page 121, line 35 – page 122, line 7, specifying exact measurements and formatting for the table by setting height/width of plurality grids when creating the table. This discloses that plurality grids dimensioned one- by-one, two-by-one, or any desired dimension), at least one of said first plurality of grids displaying said text information formatted in said horizontal directional orientation, said at least one grid having a horizontal orientation corresponding to the orientation of said textual information format (Courter, page 123, lines 3-6; page 124, line 15 – page 125, line 3);
- creating second screen by dividing the area of the display into a second plurality of grids which are combined and arrange together to fill the entire area of the display (Courter, page 121, line 8– page 122, line 11), each of said second plurality of grids being dimensioned to have approximately a five dimensional unit by two dimensional unit configuration, each said grid having a horizontal or vertical orientation (Courter, page 121, line 35 – page 122, line 7, specifying exact measurements and formatting for the table by setting height/width of plurality grids when creating the table), at least one of said second plurality of grids displaying said text information formatted in said vertical directional orientation, said at least one grid having a vertical orientation corresponding to the orientation of said textual information format (Courter, page 123, lines 3-6; page 124, line 15 – page 125, line 3);
 - selecting a first format for said text information from said at least two format (Courter, page 124, lines 15-36 and page 125, fig. 6.12); and

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- displaying said screen having said textual information corresponding to said selected format (Courter, page 124, lines 15-36 and page 125, fig. 6.12).

Courter does not explicitly disclose a two dimensional unit by one dimensional unit.

However, Courter teaches that any desired grids dimension is configured to apply to the displayed table as discussed above, which suggests grids dimensioned one- by-one, two-by-one, or any desired dimension are also configured by the user.

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have included grids with two by one dimensional unit, since it would have provided the user with different layout configuration to create a desired table.

Regarding dependent claim 16, which is dependent on claim 15, Courter teaches the limitations of claim 15 as explained above. Courter teaches at least one of said grids is further subdivided into two sub-grids (Courter, page 134, lines 10-21 and fig. 6.20, splitting a grid (cell) into many grids (cells) which includes into two grids (cells)).

Response to Arguments

10. Applicant's arguments filed 08/06/2003 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicants argue that prior arts do not teaches entire display area of said template is filled with grids each having a 2x1 grid elements.

This is not persuasive. As discussed in the rejections above, the prior arts allow the user specified any dimensions of grids for a table or frame. This clearly suggests that two by

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one dimensions grids are also used to provide the user with different layout configuration to create a desired table.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thu V Huynh whose telephone number is 703-305-9774. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Heather R Herndon can be reached on 703-308-5186. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-305-9000.

TVH
November 29, 2003



STEPHEN S. HONG
PRIMARY EXAMINER